

Young String Ensemble Series

INSTRUMENTATION

1—Full Score
8—Violin 1
8—Violin 2
4—Violin 3
4—Viola
5—Cello
2—Double Bass
1—Piano

Circus Tricks for Strings

by Loreta Fin

Programme and Rehearsal Notes

Duration: 2:45

Level: 1

This fun piece is written in first position for all parts. It is in D Major, with a short section in b minor. It encourages the use of forearm bowing in the quaver passages and is rhythmically and harmonically straightforward. Staccato and pizzicato notes are used, with some repetitive syncopated rhythms. A wide range of dynamics is also explored here, and should be closely observed. A more advanced ensemble could try it at a faster speed. The piano part is helpful for keeping a lively pulse in the string parts.

Loreta Fin is Director of Strings and Instrumental Music at Somerville House School for Girls in Brisbane, Australia. She conducts the 6 String Orchestras at the school at both primary and secondary levels and all of these ensembles have been very successful in competitions over the years. The Senior String Orchestra received the 2004 “Best School Orchestra” award from the Orchestras of Australia Network. Loreta has presented workshops on string teaching and ensemble techniques and has tutored and conducted string orchestras for numerous youth music organizations. From 2000 to 2004, Loreta was Queensland State President of Austa (Australian Strings Association) and served as the National President from 2005 to 2007. She is also a String Examiner with the Australian Music Examinations Board.

Loreta studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and has performed regularly as a freelance musician in chamber music and orchestral concerts, as well as in musical theatre. She is Principal Violist with the Queensland Pops Orchestra. Well known as an experienced educator and adjudicator, Loreta has also written numerous publications for young string orchestras, which are frequently selected as set works for competitions and festivals.

Loreta's aim is to bring an appreciation and enjoyment of music to as many young string players as possible, while teaching valuable rhythmic and technical skills in a fun way.

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Circus Tricks for Strings

Loreta Fin

Allegretto ♩=ca.100

Violin I *f*

Violin II *f*

Viola *f*

Violoncello *f*

Double Bass *f*

Piano *f*

6

11

Musical score for measures 11-16. The score is written for five staves: four for strings (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello/Double Bass) and one for piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). Performance instructions include *pizz.* (pizzicato) and *arco* (arco). A fermata is placed over the final measure of the section.

17

Musical score for measures 17-22. The score continues with the same five staves as the previous section. The music maintains the rhythmic pattern. Dynamic markings include *f* (forte). The piano part features a series of chords in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand.

22

pizz.
p pizz.
p pizz.
p pizz.
p pizz.
p
p

29

arco
mf arco
mp arco
mp arco
mp
mp

35

Musical score for measures 35-41. The score is written for five staves: two treble clefs, two bass clefs, and a grand staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present in the final measure of this system. A red watermark is overlaid on the score.

42

Musical score for measures 42-48. The score is written for five staves: two treble clefs, two bass clefs, and a grand staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The music continues with similar rhythmic patterns to the previous system. A red watermark is overlaid on the score.

59

Musical score for measures 59-63. The score is written for a grand piano with two staves (treble and bass clef) and a grand staff (treble, bass, and a lower bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music consists of continuous eighth-note patterns in the upper staves and a steady bass line in the lower staves.

64

Musical score for measures 64-68. The score is written for a grand piano with two staves (treble and bass clef) and a grand staff (treble, bass, and a lower bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music features dynamic markings of *pp* (pianissimo) and *ff* (fortissimo). Vertical lines (V) are present above the notes in measures 65, 66, 67, and 68, indicating accents or breath marks.